THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Saturday, 26th November 1955.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at nine of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI N. GOPALA MENON) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Koothali Estate, Malabar

* 2878 *Q.*—SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN (on behalf of Sri K. P. Gopalan): Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that trees worth about 5 lakhs of rupees were cut away without proper authority from the Koothali Estate, Malabar, managed by the Government now;

(*b*) whether the Government have received any representation regarding the matter; and

(*c*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: (*a*) No. Since 1939, trees worth about Rs. 14,700 only were illicitly cut from the estate forests and a sum of about Rs. 12,400 were recovered by way of compounding fees and by sale of seized cuttings.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Action was taken to prosecute the offenders in most cases. The offenders were convicted in four cases and acquitted in three cases. Nineteen cases were compounded and the cuttings seized were sold in auction. Prosecution is pending in five cases. To prevent illicit cuttings, the provisions of section 26 of the Madras Forest Act, 1882, were extended to the Pillaperuvannamalavaram and the management of the Forest has since been taken over by the Forest Department.

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: In the various prosecutions who were all the accused? Was any one of the officials who connived at the cutting and made profit out of it among the accused?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: From the information I have, I do not think that any of the officials was prosecuted.

SRI C. KUNHIRAMA KIDAV: When was this brought to the notice of the Government and when was action taken?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: It came to the notice of the Government in 1954. Immediately action was taken.

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Apart from the question whether any official was prosecuted, is it not a fact that but for the indirect connivance of the officials such large-scale cutting was impossible and if it were so, what steps do the Government propose to take to tighten up matters?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : A separate question may be put to my Hon. Colleague in charge of Forests. I am concerned only with the prosecutions. With reference to the preservation of forests and the further action to be taken, a separate question may be put.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : On what basis was the valuation of the illegally cut timber made by the Government? It was stated that trees worth about rupees five lakhs were cut and it appeared in responsible dailies like "Mathrubhumi."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : After looking into the physical features in the forest with regard to the cutting of trees, an estimate was made. The cases detected also give an approximate idea of the cuttings. It is only on that basis that this calculation has been made. I am not prepared to say that this is the correct estimate. There might be some cases which have not been detected.

Cattle Farms

* 2879 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of barren cows made fertile during the years 1953–54 in the Government Cattle Farms in the State;

(*b*) the nature of propaganda done by the Animal Husbandry Department on this and its effect?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) The number of barren cows made fertile during 1953 and 1954 in the Government Cattle Farms in the State is 44 and 90 respectively.

(*b*) In the Government Livestock Farms the animals are examined for sterility systematically when they do not take the bull and suitable remedial measures are taken, as and when necessary.

In the Key Village and Artificial Insemination Centres every cow or she-buffalo is examined for sterility and all those suspected for sterility are treated and then inseminated.

In the Veterinary Institutions animals brought for sterility are examined and given suitable treatment and owners are given necessary advice.

In view of the Artificial Insemination work in Key Villages on a large scale in the urban and rural areas, the sterility problem which had not been taken up in the past is at present being tackled very extensively and the results are encouraging. The itinerant staff in